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6 JUL 22 PM 2 21

NNNNVV ESA060BRA591
RR RUESBA
DE RUEHC 1047/1 2040557
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 220100Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

Cu073

No action necessary 8/2/76

TO RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 3612
INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
RULPALJ/USCINCSO

BT
UNCLAS

STATE 181047

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS - URUGUAY

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB			DAO		
DCM			L GATT		
POI			DEA		
EDOM			FAS		
POI/R			AID		
FDLS			MILGP		
ADM			PEA		
LSIS			GSO		
SCI			B & F		
ST			CYR.N		
			SE		

1. FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO CONGRESSMAN KOCH ON JULY 14:

"I AM PLEASED TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 17 REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT MR. WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE.

"MR. FERREIRA ENTERED URUGUAYAN POLITICS IN THE 1930'S AS A MEMBER OF THE INDEPENDENT NATIONALIST PARTY (PNI), A SPLINTER BLANCO PARTY. THE BLANCO AND THE COLORADO PARTIES ARE HISTORICALLY THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES IN URUGUAY; BOTH HAD SEVERAL FACTIONS AND SUB-FACTIONS. MR. FERREIRA HELD SEVERAL IMPORTANT PARTY POSITIONS IN THE PNI AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING LIST 400, A PNI FACTION. THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK OF THIS ORGANIZATION WAS LIBERAL. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AS AN ALTERNATE FOR THE 1951-55 TERM, AND WHEN THE INCUMBENT RESIGNED IN 1954, MR. FERREIRA TOOK HIS SEAT.

"IN 1954, AS THE PNI BECAME MORIBUND, MR. FERREIRA REJOINED THE REGULAR BLANCO PARTY AND HELPED ESTABLISH THE BLANCO RECONSTRUCTION FACTION WITH THE LIST 400 AS ITS DOMINANT SUBFACTION. IN 1958 THE BLANCO RECONSTRUCTION FACTION JOINED THE BLANCO DEMOCRATIC UNION (UBD) AND MR. FERREIRA WAS ELECTED TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS UBD NATIONAL DEPUTY FROM COLONIA (A PROVINCE OF URUGUAY). WHILE IN THE LEGISLATURE, HE SERVED DURING 1958-59 AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE AND IN 1960 AS THE LEGISLATURE'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

80F178

21/185

72 "MR. FERREIRA WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK IN 1963. IN 1966 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN 1969 MR. FERREIRA LEFT THE LIST 400 TO FORM HIS OWN POLITICAL FACTION, POR LA PATRIA, WHICH HE USED AS THE FACTION TO SUPPORT HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY. LIKE THE LIST 400, THIS FACTION WAS CONSIDERED LIBERAL. IN 1971, MR. FERREIRA WAS ELECTED A SENATOR FOR A SECOND CONSECUTIVE FIVE-YEAR TERM. HE RAN SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR THE PRESIDENCY AS THE BLANCO PARTY'S LEADING CANDIDATE; HE OUTPOLLED THE LEADING COLORADO PARTY'S LEADING CANDIDATE, JUAN BORDABERRY, BUT LOST THE ELECTION BECAUSE UNDER URUGUAY'S COMPLEX ELECTORAL SYSTEM, IN WHICH EACH PARTY CAN FIELD MORE THAN ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, THE CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES OF THE PARTY RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WINS THE PRESIDENCY.

"DURING THE PERIOD MR. FERREIRA WAS POLITICALLY ACTIVE IN URUGUAY, HE WAS WELL KNOWN BY OUR EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO WHICH MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH HIM AS IT DID WITH OTHER URUGUAYAN POLITICAL LEADERS. MR. FERREIRA WENT INTO SELF-IMPOSED EXILE IN 1973 AND SINCE THAT TIME HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EVENTS IN HIS COUNTRY FROM A DISTANCE.

"SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MR. FERREIRA DURING THE RECENT FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY REPORTS OF REPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL BODIES CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. OTHERS HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS-GATHERING AGENCIES. HOWEVER, MR. FERREIRA HAS MADE VARIOUS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE SITUATION IN URUGUAY WHICH DIFFER FROM THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US. IN SOME CASES IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT OR HIS.

"THE PUBLIC RECORD WOULD SEEM TO DISPROVE HIS ASSERTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN URUGUAY SINCE 1973. A RAPID REVIEW OF OUR FILES INDICATES THAT IN APRIL 1974, IN A FIRE FIGHT BETWEEN TUPAMARO AND

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URUGUAYAN SECURITY FORCES ONE GUERRILLA AND ONE ARMY ENLISTED MAN WERE KILLED, IN THAT SAME MONTH, IN A SEPARATE INCIDENT, AN URUGUAYAN POLICEMAN WAS KILLED, TWO OFFICERS WOUNDED AND FOUR GUERRILLAS KILLED IN AN EXCHANGE OF MACHINE GUN FIRE. IN THAT SAME MONTH THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IN MONTEVIDEO WAS BOMBED. A NEWSPAPER OFFICE WAS BOMBED THE FOLLOWING MONTH. IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR SEVERAL SITES IN PUNTA DEL ESTE WERE BOMBED. LATE IN 1975 A LARGE CACHE OF ARMS INCLUDING MANY AUTOMATIC

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0.3 WEAPONS WAS DISCOVERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY.
GIVEN THE RECORD OF VIOLENCE IN URUGUAY IT IS DIFFICULT
TO BELIEVE THESE WEAPONS WERE NOT PLANNED FOR SUBVERSIVE
USE.

"MR. FERREIRA ALSO MADE SOME STATEMENTS DURING THE HEARINGS
CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN URUGUAY
WHICH ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS. HIS CHARGE THAT
OUR EMBASSY IN URUGUAY ACTS AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT
FOR THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT IS UNTRUE. HIS ALLEGATION
THAT OUR EMBASSY INTERFERES IN INTERNAL POLITICS AND
THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CONSTITUTION IS ALSO UNTRUE.
NOR DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATE IN WHAT MR.
FERREIRA REFERS TO AS THE URUGUAYAN REPRESSIVE APPARATUS.
BOTH THE AID PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM, TERMINATED IN 1974,
AND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE THE SUBJECT OF
AN IN-DEPTH GAO SURVEY IN 1975 AS TO WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN
CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL INTENT. AS
A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW, THE GAO MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR CURTAILMENT OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

"CERTAINLY OUR EMBASSY HAS NEVER CLAIMED THAT SUBVERSION
CANNOT BE CURBED WITHOUT SUPPRESSING LIBERTIES. IN
FACT, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS VERY CLEAR TO URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS AND WE CONTINUE
TO DO SO.

"I HOPE THIS INFORMATION WILL BE OF USE TO YOU IN YOUR
EVALUATION OF MR. FERREIRA'S TESTIMONY."

2. POSTS MAY USE THIS LETTER FOR WHATEVER USE MAY
BE APPROPRIATE. ROBINSON

BT

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